

## Public Policy Committee Meeting Minutes

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### Background:

Minutes of the May 4, 2017, Public Policy Committee meeting are included for your review.

### Public Policy Committee — Agenda Item 3

#### Expected Action:

The Committee will review, revise as appropriate, and approve.

## **PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING May 4, 2017 MINUTES — DRAFT**

### Committee Members Present

Lora Taylor, Committee Chair  
Hunter Adkins  
Lisa Akers-Owen, HHSC,  
Older Americans Act  
Kristen Cox  
Stephen Gersuk  
Michael Peace  
Amy Sharp, UT – CDS  
Jami Snyder, HHSC,  
Title XIX/Medicaid  
Meagan Sumbera, TAMU –  
CDD

### Committee Members Absent

Kristine Clark  
Mary Faithfull, DRTX  
Ruth Mason  
Brandon Pharris

### Guests Present

Alexandra Noble  
Rona Statman

### Staff Present

Ashley Ford  
Linda Logan  
Jessica Ramos

### **Call to Order**

The Public Policy Committee convened on Thursday, May 4, 2017 in Ames Room at the Sheraton Georgetown Texas Hotel & Conference Center, 1101 Woodlawn Avenue, Georgetown, TX 78628. Public Policy Committee Chair Lora Taylor called those present to order at 2:00 p.m.

#### **1. Introductions**

Chair Taylor asked the Committee members, staff, and guests to introduce themselves and share their plans for the summer.

#### **2. Public Comments**

No public comments were offered to the Committee.

#### **3. Consideration of Minutes**

The Committee reviewed the minutes from the February 10, 2017 Public Policy Committee meeting. No additions or corrections were noted.

**MOTION:** To approve the minutes of the February 10, 2017 Public Policy Committee meeting.

**MADE BY:** Hunter Adkins

**SECOND:** Michael Peace

The motion **passed** unanimously.

#### **4. Chair's Remarks**

Chair Taylor reviewed absences and reported on her recent activities, including advocating for

accessible parking improvements and Compassionate Use Program expansion during the legislative session.

**5. Member Updates**

The Committee welcomed new Council and Committee member, Jami Snyder, as agency representative for Title XIX/Medicaid with the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC).

**6. Disproportionalities and Disparities Discussion**

Per request, the Committee received additional information regarding post-secondary outcomes of students with disabilities who received special education services. Staff prepared a handout titled *Disconnected Youth* to show the data relating to the Texas Education Agency's (TEA) Public Information Education Management System (PEIMS), Indicator 14 outcomes and other data available from a periodically released report by the Measure of America of the Social Research Council. Staff agreed to use the disconnected youth data and other information from the Southwest Conference on Disability for further action.

**7. Public Policy Staff Activities**

The Committee received updates from staff regarding state policy issues and staff activities including: TCDD's priority bill list, a Texas budget summary, the HCS and TxHmL rate reduction proposal, insurance coverage for ECI services, supporting self-advocates to be included on workgroups, committees and councils, and other bills of interest. The Committee also received updates regarding STAR Kids, including issues reported during the Policy Council for Children and Families meeting concerning access to care and eligibility. Jami Snyder agreed there are issues for further review, including STAR Kids assessment instructions to that may discourage Community First Choice or only offer on request.

The Committee received updates from staff regarding state supported living centers (SSLCs) including the status of SB 602 and public testimony provided by Committee member, Ruth Mason, in favor of SB 602 relating to the creation of an SSLC restructuring commission.

The Committee received updates from staff regarding recent federal policy issues including the American Health Care Act, the outlook for Medicaid in 2017 with an explanation of block grants and per capita caps, and the Supreme Court of the United States decision in "Endrew F. v. Douglas County School District." The Committee also received updates regarding HHSC activities relating to day habilitation and the Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Setting Rule. Advocates agree an extension is necessary, and are concerned that without funding, meaningful day improvements are uncertain.

Committee member Jami Snyder informed the Committee that HHSC will be meeting with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) in Washington D.C. to request a 21-month extension for the Texas 1115 waiver from CMS at current funding levels. An extension would give Texas the time to plan to take advantage of federal flexibility, like block grants, in a deliberate and transparent manner.

**8. Other Discussion Items**

The Committee discussed the development of TCDD's 2019 System Improvement Recommendations and reviewed progress on previous improvement recommendations. Members were encouraged to provide specific recommendations for the August meeting.

**Adjourn**

There being no further business, Committee Chair Lora Taylor adjourned the meeting at 3:36 p.m.

Beth Stalvey, Secretary to the Council      Date